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STATINTL

Wife Was No Pen Pal --Powers

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga. - (AP) — Former U2 Pilot Francis Gary Powers, testifying Tuesday in his plea for a divorce, told a jury the only person who mistreated him while he was in prison in Russia was his wife.



POWERS



Powers pointed to his 28-year-old wife Barbara, sitting in court with her mother, BARBARA, when he made the statement. He said his wife sometimes waited 45 days before writing to him and he felt she should have written more often.

The 33-year-old Powers, who was downed in 1960 while flying a reconnaissance mission over Russia, is asking for a divorce on the grounds of cruelty and intoxication.

Robert Green, attorney for Mrs. Powers, asked Powers if the Russians might have held up some of the letters written by his wife.

Powers said he knew none of her letters was withheld because his wife had told him she would number them so that he would know whether her mail was being delivered.

Green told the Superior Court jury that Barbara, greatly worried over the fate of her husband, journeyed 14,000 miles to Moscow to be with him during his trial for spying. Powers served 21 months of a 10-year sentence.

Powers filed suit last August, charging that Barbara, whom he married in 1955, was guilty of habitual intoxication and that she cursed and abused him without cause.

Mrs. Powers filed a counter-suit, asking an unspecified amount of alimony.

She charged that since his return to this country Powers had "lost his whole sense of

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